

## CLAIMS

1. A method of manufacturing a cylindrical metal-oxide varistor with improved energy absorption capability,

5 wherein electrodes are arranged making contact with the end surfaces of the metal-oxide varistor, the end surfaces of the varistor are coated with metal, and the envelope surface is supplied with a high-resistance material so as to form a zone with enhanced resistivity close to the  
10 envelope surface, **characterized** in that a metal-oxide powder is formed into a cylindrical body, that the envelope surfaces is coated with a paste or a dispersion of a high-resistance material by spraying, dip-painting, rolling, or some other equivalent method, and that the  
15 coated varistor body is sintered.

2. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that, during the sintering, the high-resistance material diffuses into the surface zone of the envelope surface of the

20 metal-oxide varistor to a depth of 2-6 mm.

3. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the envelope surface of the formed, non-sintered varistor body is coated with an aqueous dispersion of SiO<sub>2</sub>, LiO<sub>2</sub> or

25 Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

4. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the coated varistor body is sintered at 1100-1300°C for 2-10 h.

PCT/EP2003/000333